

March 7, 1984

LB 886

amendment. I think it should be made clear to this body that a red vote on Senator Kahle's amendment maintains the bargain that was struck a year ago between this body and county officials. The bargain that was struck a year ago is that notwithstanding the Governor's pressure to totally eliminate the Medicaid takeover and welfare takeover we would allow for the Medicaid takeover and the welfare takeover, therefore that relieve the county of their Medicaid cost sharing but the only thing we ask of the counties, the only thing, is they continue their general assistance program and they continue their medically indigent program under state standards and the counties agreed to that a year ago. And now they are back and they wish to welsh on the bargain. I think a red vote should be shown simply as a matter of principle but a red vote should also be shown as a matter of policy because the kind of bargain the county agreed to is good social policy for the state.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President and members of the body, I want to support Senator Kahle's amendment. I feel that we need to do this. 886, if it passes, won't have 93 different rules. It will use the standards that are now set up and I feel that...Senator Johnson says we broke a bargain, well, the state broke a bargain with 522 and now 604 is coming and the counties want to break a bargain. We have to protect ourselves. And as Senator Higgins so well put it, if we are going to have to increase property tax because of this, we should be able to set the rules, speaking for the counties. And I would want to see the counties set up a committee to set the rules and regulations so they are statewide and they assured me that this would be done. Now what more could you ask. I think it is a turf war and there is no question in my mind about it. And I feel if the counties are going to pay the bill, they should have the right to say what they are going to pay for. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Kahle, did you wish to speak again to the bill...to the amendment? No, you are it. It is your amendment, yes. Yes, that's right, thank you.